

Erasmus Policy Statement 2021-2027

Prague City Vysoká Škola (PCVS) is a Czech-accredited university with a 13 year history and formerly known as AKCENT College. In 2021 it became a sister university with Prague College, which has a 17 year history offering British degrees in English in Prague.

Together the two institutions support about 500 students on 12 degree programmes at the Bachelor's and Master's level, as well as 2 pre-university programmes and several professional qualifications. The two universities are transforming into a single institution, as PCVS, in a process that takes several years due to the regulatory environment:

1 - The current Czech Bachelor's degree in Specialised Education offered by PCVS was originally offered from 2008 to 2020 and reintroduced in Sept 2021. Following the reintroduction of year two and three of the programme (in Sept 2022 and Sept 2023 respectively) the number of students on this programme will be about 75-90.

2 - PCVS is preparing a Master's programme in Specialised Education offering students a 2nd cycle progression, which is expected to be introduced by Sept 2024 at the latest, in time for the first graduates of the Bachelor's degree.

3 - The 11 foreign degree programmes (British) currently offered by sister institution Prague College will be transferred to PCVS over the coming 12-18 months and registered as non-EU degree programmes with the Czech Ministry of Education (MSMT)

4 - PCVS will then start progressively accrediting the British programmes as double degrees with Czech accreditation as well. We will start with the Bachelor's programmes and then develop the double-degree Master's programmes. Our goal is to have the first double degrees operating by Sept 2024 and most or all programmes by Sept 2027.

At the time of this application, the number of students in the 1st Cycle - Bachelor's degree in the table above represents just first and second year students on the one Czech programme. However, over the coming few years, that number will rise towards the full number of approximately 500 students that we currently serve on our 12 degree programmes. Our application for the Erasmus Charter is both in service of the existing Czech degree programme and the upcoming foreign and double degree (Czech/UK) students who will be transferred from our sister university in the next few years.

Together PCVS and Prague College already operate under the unified brand of Prague City University in English. **Soon the two institutions will be joined within the Czech university, PCVS, operating all programmes as PCVS.**

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PCVS strongly believes that participation in the Erasmus programme is integral to the realisation of our institutional strategy and goals.

In line with our internationalisation strategy, PCVS's main goals are to:

- Develop close high quality international partnerships, especially with outcomes in the areas of teacher training and staff mobility, joint research projects and publications;
- Support student mobility with a goal of sending up to 5% of our student body to spend part of their studies at a university abroad;
- Participate in the Erasmus Mundus programme in the future by developing joint degrees with high quality partners.

With the joining of PCVS and Prague College operating as Prague City University, our Czech degree students have gained access to a truly international institution with about 500 students from over 80 countries. Our sister university, Prague College, with a 17-year history, has cemented international links across the EU, especially Germany (Designschule München), France (ESME), Spain (ESAT) and Portugal (ETIC Algarve), as well as globally with student and staff mobility to and/or from the UK (Teesside University), USA (IFSA Institute for Study Abroad), Japan (International Pacific University) and Taiwan (Chinese Cultural University). Participation in Erasmus programmes in the future will allow us to further develop our successful bilateral exchanges, and introduce new Erasmus partnerships, in the framework of EU, European Higher Education Area and global cooperation.

On the basis of an application submitted in 2013, AKCENT College, the previous name of PCVS, was awarded the "Erasmus Charter for Higher Education" (Erasmus+) for the period 2014-2020 (Erasmus+). In this period of time, AKCENT College gradually signed Erasmus+ agreements with the following foreign schools: "Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences, Vilnius, Lithuania; University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia; University of Presov, Prešov, Slovakia; Wyższa Szkoła Pedagogiczna TWP w Warszawie, Warsaw, Poland; Warsaw School of Applied Linguistics, Warsaw, Poland; Akdeniz University, Antalya, Turkey and eventually with Wyższa Szkoła Pedagogiki i Administracji im. Mieszko School of Education and Administration (Mieszko) in Poznań, Poland (2017). Destination countries of the Erasmus + students were Lithuania, Slovakia, Turkey, Spain and Great Britain and destination countries of Akcent College academics were Turkey, Slovakia and Lithuania.

In the immediate future, the target groups of the Erasmus programme are PCVS students or teachers on the Czech Bachelor's programme focused on pre-service training of future teachers of foreign languages. PCVS would like to work with partner institutions based on three factors: the degree to which teaching practice incorporating linguistic, pedagogical, psychological and methodological knowledge is perceived as central to the programme, to what extent the institution advocates a focus on a learner-centered as opposed to teacher-centered pedagogy, and the number and range of courses (compulsory and elective) that are delivered in English.

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PCVS would like to co-operate above all with institutions from Central Europe or the Baltic countries as teacher trainees in these countries are preparing for immersion in a professional context similar to that of the Czech Republic. PCVS would also like to cooperate with institutions in countries that are not members of the Erasmus programme, such as Vietnam, where the need for quality education of future English teachers is currently very topical.

The immediate priority of PCVS is to ensure greater mobility of students and academic staff. PCVS would subsequently consider international co-operation with educational institutions with similar programmes and values in order to develop joint projects and research. These projects would in the long-term foster increased academic output at PCVS.

Participation in the Erasmus programme will foster greater intercultural understanding among students and staff, and accentuate the multicultural orientation of PCVS, which provides equal opportunities to students and lecturers, regardless of nationality, gender or cultural background. It is also expected that the programme will contribute toward the wider dissemination of ideas in the field of language teaching, and that it will enable sharing examples of effective pedagogy and the implementation of culturally diverse teaching practices in the educational process.

Finally, with the progressive introduction of our upcoming double degree students coming from the transformation of our sister institution and transferring its programmes to PCVS, we will develop student and staff mobility across our four faculties (Schools): Education, Business, Art & Design and Media and IT.